

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 10 November 2021

TB2021.97

Title: Integrated Assurance Committee Report

Status: For Information

History: Regular Reporting

Board Lead: Trust Chair

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Confidential: No

Key Purpose: Assurance

Integrated Assurance Committee Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1. As a Committee of the Trust Board, the Integrated Assurance Committee provides a regular report to the Board on main issues raised and discussed at its meetings.
- 1.2. Since the last report to the Board held in public, the Integrated Assurance Committee had met on 13 October 2021.
- 1.3. Under its terms of reference, the Integrated Assurance Committee is responsible for reporting to the Board items discussed, actions agreed and issues to be referred to the Board, indicating the extent to which the Committee was able to take assurance from the evidence provided and where additional information was required.

2. Key Areas of Discussion

Integrated Performance Report

- 2.1. The Committee received this regular report on performance across operational, quality, workforce, digital and financial metrics.
- 2.2. The Committee heard that a review of the pharmacy function in the Trust would be undertaken by the Clinical Support Services Division. Members suggested areas of focus for the review to address areas in which more assurance was required.
- 2.3. Members received a detailed briefing on how the Elective Recovery Fund (ERF) was distributed during the first six months of the financial year, with the Trust performing well despite changes in thresholds for generating ERF income. A return to activity-based funding was expected to become more prominent from the 2022/23 financial year.

Urgent and Emergency Care

- 2.4. The Committee considered the Trust's emergency capacity and received an update on the Trust's plans for winter. Within the Integrated Care System, there was a need for more robust messaging on care pathways as well as provision of pre-hospital care – both reablement and domiciliary – to benefit patients and reduce pressure on the Trust's emergency departments.
- 2.5. The Committee recognised the system-wide working led by the Trust and could take assurance from the communication/escalation structure presented.

Divisional Performance Reviews and Performance Management and Accountability Framework

- 2.6. The Committee noted the Divisional Performance Reviews and progress of the programme of thematic reviews. Taken together, they will provide cross-cutting assurance to the Committee.

Financial Plans for October 2021 – 31 March 2022 (“H2 21/22”)

- 2.7. There was not yet clarity on the funding position for H2, but the Trust would be required to breakeven at the end of the 2021/22 budget year. The Committee agreed to review the budget position at each meeting and to provide additional information to Non-Executive Directors as required.

Financial Governance Review

- 2.8. The Committee approved the action plan and suggested that regular progress reports capture not only improvements in capacity and capability in budget management but also the underpinning cultural changes. This would enable the Committee to assess the overall effectiveness of the plan.

Patient Safety Specialists

- 2.9. The work of the Patient Safety team was highlighted as an example of excellent practice, as the OUH Safety Suite had been well-received at a national meeting, and cultural change to ways of working and involving patients.

Estates Matters

- 2.10. The Trust had received the best possible outcome – verbal advice – from the recent Health and Safety Executive Review.
- 2.11. The Committee also heard that urgent compliance work at Katharine House had commenced, with further updates to come to future meetings.

Other Regular Reporting

- 2.12. The Committee received its regular update reports on infection prevention and control matters, SIRIs and Never Events, Quality Priorities and the Board Assurance Framework and Corporate Risk Register Review of Risks. It also received the Annual Clinical Effectiveness Report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Trust Board is asked to **note** the Integrated Assurance Committee’s report to the Board from its meeting held on 13 October 2021.